



YpsiMix

312 N River Street, Ypsilanti MI

734-483-1520

www.ypsifoodcoop.org

Renew to Keep YFC Healthy

This year
I PLEDGE to
Shop LOCAL
Spend LOCAL
Eat LOCAL
Enjoy LOCAL

and support the local
businesses that support
me & my community

It's time again to renew your co-op membership (unless you are a paid-in-full Gold Card member). Membership runs for the calendar year, so beginning now, you will not receive your 2% discount unless you renew.

Since anyone can shop and membership is optional, why become a member of YFC? **Because membership has benefits for the entire community, for each member, and for our YFC grocery store.**

Member-ownership is a crucial

tool for building our community economy and food system. Membership in YFC also supports the **third cooperative principle: "Members' Economic Participation"**. Membership in YFC allows you to be a member-owner and hold equity in YFC. Practicing the cooperative principles helps co-ops thrive.

YFC provides a market for local growers that is more personal for the farmers. We have the flexibility and independence to make on the spot decisions as we work directly with farmers and other local vendors. Large corporate chains located out-of-state are much more demanding and rigid. Selling to YFC means that small

businesses and farmers can experiment with new varieties, while still being assured of income. Vendors benefit!

Co-op members not only have the benefit of local, organic, and healthier food, but also a more personal and justice-oriented place to shop. Members can express their wants and needs directly to caring employees and management that have the ability to take action on their concerns right away. That same staff are well-informed and able to answer members' questions about what we sell. Members in good standing get a 2% regis-

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YFC Thanks YOU!

YFC has made many improvements to the store, staff, and operations recently but this could not have been done without the help and support of our staff, members and volunteers!

Without each of you YFC would not be the place it is! Your support and participation makes YFC unique

from any other co-op!

Without the people who have invested in YFC we would not be able to do what we love to do!

Therefore, as we begin our 42nd year and head into a new year full of the unknown we want to extend a huge thank you to each and everyone of

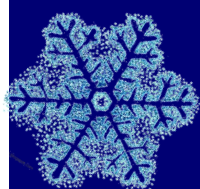
you! We are excited about the future of YFC and Ypsilanti!

We look forward to growing and sharing together as a community throughout 2017 and many more years to come!

Thank you from all of us at YFC!



**General Manager
Corinne Sikorski**



**YFC
NEEDS
YOU**

New Beginnings for 2017

Many things will be different in 2017 and leaving 2016 has had numerous changes for all of us. One of the changes in 2017 is that Lisa Bashert will be off to new beginnings with the pursuit of new and creative ventures. Lisa began working at the co-op in 2010, but she was not new to YFC. Becoming a member in 1990, she worked as a volunteer writing articles for the local paper, serving on the board of directors, and leading the Co-op Quilters that produced quilts to be raffled off at the Heritage Festival as a fundraiser for the co-op.

In 2010, Lisa was hired to run the coop's booths at the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets. Soon after she began she also helped start the Local Honey Project. Founded to support sustainability of pollinators, and to educate

our community about the issues associated with honey bees, Lisa led many ambitious volunteers in learning about the ins and outs of beekeeping. Beehives were placed at the food coop, as well as Growing Hope and the Farm at St. Joes. Volunteers learned how to manage the bees and how to process honey. Some of the volunteers have gone on to their own bees and hives, and even evolved into helping Ypsilanti become a Bee City!

Lisa has also been the marketing coordinator, which started out as the editor of the newsletter, the Ypsi Mix, and evolved to the support person for all things marketing and outreach. We have over 900 members that Lisa has helped orient and keep informed about the various sustainability projects of YFC and about the Prin-

ciples of Cooperatives!

Between 2010 and 2016, the YFC renovated and expanded and grew in sales! Lisa supported the rebranding of our coop to be more aligned with the rest of the food co-ops around the country as members of the National Cooperative Grocers. Lisa also saw the YFC into the age of technology and the internet, as Facebook became a thing...one that took time, energy and creativity!

Lisa is also involved with the Ypsilanti Growers Co-op and the Cooperative Orchard of Ypsilanti. She has her own bees and a grandbaby, and will continue to be a part of the sustainability and progressive efforts being made in Ypsilanti. Thank you Lisa, and best wishes with your future endeavors.

RENEW, cont'd

ter discount; and when their Fair Share investment reaches a total of \$200, they become "Gold Card members" and receive a 4% discount. Each member gets a vote and helps determine the direction of our store.

When members and vendors benefit, our city benefits. The Co-op invests in

and is part of the Ypsilanti community. It's not just here to make a profit, but YFC connects with neighbors, supports our local food system, and provides good food.

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op needs your membership! We can't do it without you! Food co-ops around

the country are struggling with decreased sales due to increased competition. As we begin our 42nd year in business, please consider joining or renewing your membership so that YFC will be around for many more years and continue to provide all of these economic benefits.

Taste the Local Difference



Taste the Local Difference (TLD) is Michigan's local food marketing agency. It is a social enterprise of the Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, based in Traverse City, MI. TLD is a supporter of the Michigan Good Food Charter and their resolution to have 20% of all food sold in Michigan come from Michigan farms and food businesses by 2020. TLD's mission is to help food businesses and the communities they serve benefit from the economic value of local food, while ensuring that fresh, healthy, local food is available to all consumers. Their goal is simply to sell more locally-grown and -produced food in the regions they represent. Recently, TLD has expanded into SE Michigan and Ypsi Food Co-op is poised to

take advantage of their marketing expertise. TLD will be coming to YFC to hold samplings and tastings of various different local vendors that fill YFC shelves. We are excited to start this new approach to sampling and look forward to providing more opportunities for our customers to try local products and support local vendors! Keep an eye out for tasting postings with TLD around the store and online we have a great line up coming! For more information about TLD visit: <http://www.localdifference.org>

Local Vendor Highlight: Cooper Family Jams

Taste the Local Difference will be coming to YFC on January 21st from 11:00am to 2:00 pm to do a tasting of The Cooper Family Jam's!

This will be an excellent opportunity for you to try a variety of their jams and decide which one is your favorite! The jams are made by the Cooper family in their home in Brethern MI located in Manistee County. Their jams are made with no preservatives, flavors or colors added! The Cooper family uses true natural



ingredients and on each label they write: "We use only ingredients you would use to make it in your own kitchens." An added bonus about The Cooper Family company is that they carry several sugar free jams along with their regular jams! Check in the jam section of YFC to grab some of these local Michigan jams and don't miss the **tasting on January 21st!**

YPSILANTI FOOD CO-OP

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volunteers, and members*

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These principles guide all aspects of the
YFC Grocery Store's business:

THE 7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Voluntary and Open Membership

Democratic Member Control

Members' **Economic** Participation

Autonomy and **Independence**

Education, Training and Information

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Concern for **Community**

www.ypsifoodcoop.org

January Events

Sunday January 1, Co-op CLOSED
For New Year's Day

Wednesday January 18, 6:00-7:00 pm

New Member Orientation at YFC

"YFC Grocery Store— Talk & Tour" including samples
and receiving a 10% grocery discount for attending!
Everyone is welcome and new members are espe-
cially invited to join!

Tuesday January 17, 6:30pm

YFC Board Meeting at the Ypsi Freighthouse

Board meetings are open to the membership to ob-
serve and participate in except when an executive
session is called.

Saturday January 21, 11:00-2pm

Tasting: Cooper Family Jams

Experience the delicious variety of jams made by
Cooper Family Jams! This includes sugar free jams
too! Don't miss out on this awesome tasting!

Saturday January 21, 1:00pm

**Ypsi March for Love, Resilience, and
Action**

Organized by Ypsi citizens working to bring positive en-
ergy to a moment of struggle. For more information visit
facebook.com/LoveResilienceActionYpsi/ or email: LoveResilienceAction.Ypsi@gmail.com

